

## Government Advisory Committee

5/31/2012

### Attendees:

Randy Childers – Building Official Waco

Eduardo Mendoza – City Engineer, McAllen

Scott Elmer – City Engineer, Missouri City

Nancy-Ellen Soteriou – Texas Department of Transportation (retired)

Minutes approved: Elmer/Soteriou

### Discussion of Legislation and Sunset:

Questions on fingerprinting were asked:

- Will we be given additional time to renew to get our fingerprints done;
- Can we use our City policy department to get fingerprinted?
- What happens if a red flag comes up

HB 403 – suggested we look at this bill which is a “Good Samaritan” bill that was passed for building officials, similar to what engineers already have.

### Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats:

Outreach was discussed as opportunity:

- Texas Municipal League annual convention. Balli offered to send information about October trade show in Austin. TML serves smaller cities which might be a way of reaching them without traveling. City engineers and local officials attend. Suggested topics: When is an engineer required. Smaller cities may not have a city attorney who understands laws surrounding engineering.
- Building Officials of Texas convention/trade show. Childers offered to send information about the August trade show in Waco. When is an engineer required.  
BPI Institute has three major shows – Houston, Arlington, Austin
- Packaged outreach – traveling road show (Balli)
- FAQs for smaller communities
- Website page for city officials/engineers for questions about PSPA and when an engineer is required. The smaller cities don’t have the manpower or experience to know issues
- Newsletter – provide more statistics; make it easier to read the cases so you don’t have to read the entire thing
- Reach out to County regulators and county administrators – when an engineer is required
- TPWA/APWA
- State Fire marshal
- Shaping a culture of professional engineers
- Learn to meet the younger generation with what they know and how they learn;
- Create apps on a smart phone for PE Board for young people to apply
- Outreach to schools and universities; encourage taking FE

#### Threats:

- TxDot – half of TxDot engineers (over 500) are eligible to retire in five years
- Contract administration changes affects bidding on engineering projects
- Kids graduating from schools will not have math and science they once had as programs are being cut under new laws
- BS + 30 threatens to make more requirements on graduates but what problem will it solve?
- BS + 30 could drive up the cost of getting an engineering education
- Engineers need to have more training in contract administration
- People coming into the universities not prepared for rigors of education
- Education not encouraging sitting for FE – or even telling students that it is there
- Not teaching students about professional practice they are not prepared for what the real world is like
- Engineers who can't communicate – either verbally or in writing – creates a disconnect between clients and the engineers, whether a city council or a project owner

#### Computer Based Testing

- Would like to know for the next GAC meeting how the CBT has gone
- Question for the Deans: What are you doing to prepare students for CBT?

#### Future Topics:

- How did CBT go?
- How will CBT affect Public Agencies
- Add an agenda item for Outreach to local officials
- BS+ 30 – update on how that is going

Date approved by Committee as submitted: June 6, 2014

Date accepted by Board as submitted: August 28, 2014